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There is a fund of humor also in Mr. Lala's account of his native land, though the author is evidently unconscious of the fact. One might be led to expect an instructive description of the Philippines from an educated Filipino, but unfortunately the author has become, as he says, a cosmopolitan, and the native hue of his narrative is clumsily covered in consequence with a veneer of western civilization. In charity to our new subjects, therefore, we will refrain from further comment upon this native contribution to the literature of the country.

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*Problems of Modern Industry.* By SIDNEY and BEATRICE WEBB. Pp. vi, 286. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 39 Paternoster Row, 1898.

The book published with this name is for the most part a collection of fugitive articles which have been contributed by the authors to English reviews and other publications, though a certain amount of new matter is incorporated. From the character of its composition the book lacks continuity, but on the other hand, the subjects dealt with are timely where not absolutely urgent, and Mr. and Mrs. Webb owe no apology for having given to their studies this more permanent form. The more important chapters are those dealing with the Jews of East London; women's wages; women and the Factory Acts; the regulation of the hours of labor; the sweating system: the reform of the Poor Law; the bearing of Co-operation upon Trade Unionism; and in the closing pages a consideration of the advantages of Individualism, and true and false conceptions of Socialism. Every chapter is a compact assemblage of facts and conclusions drawn from a thorough investigation of the problems of labor, such as no English social reformers have made more thoroughly than Mr. and Mrs. Webb.

The chapter dealing with the industrial position of women is among the most suggestive of all, and not less so because its conclusions run counter to some common notions. As a result of extensive inquiries over a wide field, the authors come to the conclusion that women workers almost invariably earn less than men save in a few instances of exceptional ability and in a few occupations where sexual attraction enters in; and where inferiority of earnings exist, it is almost always co-existent with inferiority of work. Moreover, the general inferiority of women's work would appear to influence their wages in industries in which no such inferiority exists. Thus, in the so-called "genteel" vocations women habitually receive less than men,

and in the case of clerks and teachers, they likewise receive less, though their work, both in quality and quantity, is often equal to that of men. Those who fear that women are having matters too much their own way in the competition with men will take comfort from the authors' assurance that the field of employment for women in practice widens without really narrowing that for men, in that for every class of work abandoned to women, several entirely new branches have sprung into existence for the supplanted sex. Dealing with the regulation of the hours of labor, the authors come to the conclusion that the probable economic results, so far as they can be discerned, of a general shortening of the hours of labor will be slightly to decrease the average productivity per worker, but also to absorb a part of the unemployed, thus increasing the total production of the community, so that supply and therefore demand will in the aggregate suffer no diminution, while no effect will be produced upon prices generally, though particular commodities may be subject to variations.

In dealing with the sweating system, it is characteristic of the authors' position that they advocate no wholesale stamping out, but rather would place all workshops under the stringent sanitary and other regulations of the Factory Acts, so leveling up the conditions of employment in such a manner that sweated labor would not pay. One may doubt, however, whether the authors do not take too favorable a view of the influence of alien labor of the lower kind such as is found in the East of London and the other centres of the clothing industries upon the standard of life common to the English workman.

One of the most suggestive chapters is that upon the reform of the Poor Law. Among the measures advocated are state pensions for the aged, better education for pauper children, the transference of infirmaries and hospitals to public authorities making the community responsible for the maintenance of these institutions, the public burial of the dead, the abolition of the casual ward with concurrent disciplinary treatment for bona fide vagrant idlers, and the improvement of the existing Poor Law machinery.

The work is eminently suggestive in many ways, and is no unworthy addition to the important contributions to social reform which Mr. and Mrs. Webb have already made.

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*Geldzins und Güterpreise.* Eine Studie über die den Tauschwert des Geldes bestimmenden Ursachen. By Dr. Knut Wicksell. Pp. 189. Jena: Verlag, von Gustav Fischer, 1898.

Dr. Wicksell's work is an attempt to present a working theory of